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VZCZCMAY716 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ZYUW

MULT 56965

ACTION

DISTR

CJCS DJS J3(14) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF(07) SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10)
DIA: DIA(10) :DIA(15) NMIC( ) CMC
CSAF WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CSA WASHINGTON DC
C I A
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
NSA WASH DC
FILE(1)
(059)

~~NOFORN~~

TRANSIT/071930Z/072120Z/001:50TOR1582116
DE PUESBAA #0456 1582040
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~
P 071930Z JUN 77
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC/DB-3B3
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
RULPMKD/24TH COMPW HOWARD AFB CZ
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/NOFORN~~ 0456 JUNE 77
SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. ARGENTINA (AR)
2. (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. (U) MILITARY ORDER OF BATTLE - BELL 212'S FOR ARGENTINA
4. N/A
5. 770604
6. 770606
7. 770604, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
8. DIRM III/ AR-001
9. (b)(3):10 USC 424
10.
11. NO
12. (b)(3):10 USC 424
13.
14.
15. DIRC: NO; ~~NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT.~~
16. SUMMARY: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ ARGNENTINE AIR FORCE (ARGAF) IS

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REC'D DS-4B 9 JUN '77

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VERY CONCERNED OVER THEIR NEED TO HAVE HELICOPTERS SOON, AND DELAYS IN A SUG DECISION TO GRANT AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR EIGHT BELL 212'S WILL FORCE THEM TO PURCHASE THE FRENCH PUMA. ARGAF LOOKS AT THE PUMA AS A VERY POOR SECOND OPTION TO THE BELL 212, BUT NEEDS HELICOPTERS NOW.

2. DETAILS: 1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

BRIGADIER AGUSTI, CINC ARGAF, HAD TOLD HIM THAT IF THE USG DID NOT HAVE A FAVORABLE DECISION ON THE BELLS BY 9 JUN 77, THE ARGAF WOULD BUY THE FRENCH PUMA TO BE SURE IT HAD THE HELICOPTERS IT NEEDS FOR PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT MISSIONS, AND THE NEXT ANTARCTIC CAMPAIGN.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Sec. 3.3(b) (1) KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE DEBATE GOING ON WITHIN USG CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS SALES. HE Sec. 3.3(b) (1) THOUGHT HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO DELAY THE DECISION ON GRANTING AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE BELL 212'S UNTIL PAST THE ARGAF DECISION POINT OF 9 JUN 77. Sec. 3.3(b) (1) NOT BEING IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH WASHINGTON, HE COULDN'T PROVIDE A VALID OPINION, BUT THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS NOW ON THOSE WANTING APPROVAL OF ANY SALE. SOURCE A WENT INTO DETAIL ON THE MANY REASONS HE, AND THE ARGAF, DON'T WANT THE PUMA; E.G. INFERIOR PERFORMANCE, POOR MATERIEL SUPPORT, EXCESSIVELY LONG LEAD TIMES FOR SPARE PARTS, OVERALL GREATER COSTS IN ARGAF PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES. IN A PERSONAL ASIDE, Sec. 3.3(b) (1) HE ALREADY HAD A TEAM READY FOR TRAVEL TO US FOR THE BELL 212'S. HE COMPLAINED IF USG DELAYS DECISION PAST 9 JUN, HE WILL HAVE TO REFORM THE TEAM TO SEND IT TO FRANCE FOR PUMAS.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ [redacted] THE MENTIONED NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS THAT A HELICOPTER HAD BEEN USED TO ILLUMINATE AND PROVIDE FIRE SUPPORT FOR A RECENT COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE OPERATION IN WHICH 15 TERRORISTS WERE KILLED. SOURCE A REACTED FORCEFULLY. HE STATES: A) THAT NO ARGAF HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN USED IN THAT, OR SIMILAR OPERATIONS; B) THAT THE FEDERAL POLICE HAVE HELICOPTERS WITH ILLUMINATION CAPABILITY, BUT NO FIRE CONTROL

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SYSTEM; AND C) THAT IF ANY FIRE SUPPORT CAME FROM HELI-
COPTERS IT WAS SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM THE PILOTS. SOURCE A,
GETTING MORE EMOTIONAL, STATED HE HAD NO INFORMATION
WHICH WOULD SUPPORT STORIES THAT THE FEDERAL POLICE WERE
USING THEIR HELICOPTERS AS SHOOTING PLATFORMS. HE WENT ON
TO SAY THAT IT WOULD BE "CRIMINAL" TO DELAY OR DENY THE
EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE 212'S BASED ON ONE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT
OF ONE COUNTER-INSURGENCY ENCOUNTER.
COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCES' COMMENTS CONCERNING THE
DECISION DATE FOR AN EXPORT LICENSE INDICATES THAT THE
ARGAF MAY HAVE DECIDED TO CLOSE THE PURCHASE DEAL FOR
PUMAS, IF BELL 212'S ARE NOT AVAILABLE, WHILE THE COMMANDERS
OF THE OPERATIONS COMMAND AND MATERIEL COMMAND ARE AT THE
INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE EXPOSITION IN PARIS, WHICH ENDS
19 JUN 77. SOURCE A'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEBATE ON ARMS
SALES AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT INDICATES
THAT THE AIRA THERE IS KEEPING ARGAF WELL INFORMED ON
ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON. Sec. 3.3(b) (1)
MENTION OF THE HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR THE RECENT COUNTER-
SUBVERSIVE OPERATION WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY EMOTIONAL.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

THE FACTS OF THAT CASE ARE AS HE PRESENTED THEM.
THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORD W/EMBASSY.
~~XGDS-2 31 DEC 2007~~
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